Global preaffiliation lists available for worldwide web

by Mike McMahon and Billy Smith

Communications-Electronics Command's software-engineering center at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and the project manager for the terrestrial part of the Warfighter Information Network have fielded a single software baseline for the AN / TTC-39 family and mobile-subscriber equipment switches with completion of the enhanced switch-operations program / global database upgrade.

The software can be loaded into all switches containing the circuit switch routing task-execution plan upgrade.

The ESOP / global database upgrade is expected to be completed in 1998-1999.

Key software in the upgrade is the global circuit switch on-line operational program Version RD28193C for all Army and Air Force AN / TTC-39 family and MSE switches. This enhanced software enables echelons-above-corps, echelons-corps-and-below and Air Force units to operate for the first time in a truly seamless network — with no area-code boundaries. The global software provides improvements to the earlier CSR TEP upgrade by allowing better control of the network, providing a four-digit switch code / unique team label for each AN / TTC-39 family and MSE switch, and providing for a five-digit preaffiliation list.

In conjunction with this effort, the Signal Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., has developed global PALs that provide a composite listing of subscribers and assigned profiles contained within a switch database. The software-engineering center and Signal Center manage the global PALs, which have been broken down to 16 databases.

Users can access the software center's website and download software. The website address is www.sed.monmouth.mil / SEC / rdit.html.

PALs used to support the AN / TTC-39 family and MSE tactical circuit switches are available for downloading. The following PALs and all related data files are available for download from the website. The download process creates a Unix-based PAL data disk (created on a disc-operating-system machine) that can be used in the switches.

PAL	User
PA220797	Joint Communications Support Element
PA290497	Joint Interoperability Test Center
PA421197	Air Force (active)
PA431197	Air Force (guard)
PA441197	Air Force (reserve)
PA520397	I Corps
PA531297	III Corps
PA550997	V Corps
PA560997	52d Mechanized (training)
PA570797	Panama
PA580897	XVIII Corps
PA620397	EAC Korea
PA630997	EAC Germany
PA640797	EAC continental United States
PA650797	EAC guard
PA660797	EAC reserve

Also available for downloading are the data source files developed as part of the PAL creation process. These files include subscriber database file, unit listing, team-label data file, sample phonebook and PAL listing.

The web server takes advantage of current technology by providing rapid distribution of system software and databases and can lead to real-time support for joint operations at a reduced cost. For example, a joint-task-force commander could provide a complete switch load disk for a contingency mission as long as he knows the units that will become part of the task force. Units from III Corps or I Corps could immediately play once they're on the ground in the operations area of a JTF run by V Corps, without the area-code boundary, using the same phone numbers they used at home station (see Figure 34).

Figure 34. PALs provide communications connections using the same phone numbers as units used at home station.

The PAL data isn't classified but is considered sensitive, so the software-engineering center elected to provide security in the form of password protection. Detailed instructions for obtaining required passwords may be found on the worldwide web download page.

Looking to the future and using the same techniques, it'll be possible to develop procedures for downloading the remaining tactical switching software, including CSOLOP, workstation on-line operational program, Sun WSOLOP and common-equipment databases.

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Smith, both retired from the Army, work for Telos Corporation supporting tactical communications for the software-engineering center.